

Our North Brazil Mission is not so very far from being under the equator. It consists of five regularly organized stations, with a large number of out-stations and preaching places. Some of our missionaries in this Mission have suffered sore persecution. The reports from the workers tell of the readiness of the people to hear the Word, of flourishing churches, and of difficulties as well as successes. The school at Pernambuco, the work done in theological training and other educational features of the work commend themselves most heartily in their spirit and success.

## Devotional and Selections

### PRAYER.

O God! my hand is on the plow and I am weary,  
 For nothing grows within the furrow that I tread;  
 On either side the sky is blue; o'er me 'tis dreary  
 And passion flowers nod at me and bow their head.  
 I know full well that plowing must be done  
 Before the planting or the gathering.  
 I know that cloud and rain as well as summer sun;  
 Must be, before the golden grain is gathered in,—  
 But O, sometimes the skies are gray so long, so long!—  
 That hearts grow faint before they turn to blue;  
 And many and many a glad spring song  
 Turns into wailing e'er the winter's thro.  
 The handles of the plow are stained with tears and sweat;  
 The furrow's narrow; full of thorns and weeds the track,  
 Let me not falter—let me not forget,—  
 And O my God, keep me I pray, from turning back!

J. R. M.

### IS CHRISTIAN SCIENCE ALL HUMBUG?

The so-called philosophical teachings of Christian Science are worthless. In fact, it is a misnomer to call them philosophical. They are a mixture of idealism and other theories crudely apprehended. Mrs. Eddy was not competent to think on such subjects. Her book is neither philosophy nor literature, even of a low order. Its obscurities, however, give shallow readers an opportunity for discussion which is promoted by their inability to think. There is no science in the book or in the so-called system, and the term "science" is also a misnomer. A scientific person, like a philosophical, will see only trash in it.

It is sometimes thought that there must be something valuable in the book, or so many would not prize it; but it is just such writings that attract shallow leaders of whom the supply is inexhaustible. It has succeeded chiefly by its demerits. The capacity for incompetents who would be thinkers to be fooled is without limit. "Science and Health" has the same merit as the book of Mormon and the Koran, both of which are without philosophic, scientific, or literary value. Its truths are merely truisms which any unthinking person could utter.

The cures alleged for Christian Science are no evidence of its truth or worth. None of them have been established, and the belief in them is a familiar delusion. While belief in one's health and a cheerful disposition have some effect on the system, it is not very great. It is no specific for disease in general. All physicians believe in slight influences of this kind, and in their practice. Christian Science has no value in

this respect which is new. It is doubtful if one cure was ever effected by it.

This is obvious to those who are accustomed to sift evidence. While many get well after "treatment," as after other methods of "curing," it does not follow that the treatment wrought the cure. People get well naturally. It is only necessary to give them a chance. With time diseases disappear. While one gets sick a hundred times, he dies only once; and in the ninety-nine times that he gets well he would do so whatever the treatment, whether by patent medicine, Christian Science, or relics of the saints. If no treatment were given at all, he would get well. It is hard to tell what cures one when sick, and the uncertainty of medical and other remedies gives rise to fake treatments. It is easy to get testimonials for any kind of treatment, whether by medicine, diet, or exercise. Cure-alls are common and all are substantiated in about the same way.

The Christian Scientists are not in a mental condition to prove cures. It is one of their principles that there is no sickness, and so there can be no cure of any. The disease is imaginary, and nothing more can be alleged of the cure. It is one of the silly contradictions of this cult.

The testimony of Christian Scientists to cures is also worthless for the reason that they must say there is no sickness and try to believe there is none, no matter what one's condition. When they must say this, whether true or not, no weight can be attached to their testimony. They must report what is false if they are true to their principles. People can easily testify that one was well after treatment when they believe that he was never anything else but well. The evidence, therefore, of Christian Scientists to their "cures" is self-destructive. The substance of it is that one who seemed sick, but was not, was afterwards well. There is here no cure, but at most a recognition of one's health, which existed before he took the treatment.

How worthless the evidence of Christian Science cures is, can be inferred from the fact that every false religion claims similar cures. The Dowieites, Mormons, and various heathen devotees report as many cures as Christian Scientists, as do also patent medicine men and quack doctors. Negroes and other ignorant people allege still more from charms. A rabbit's foot or a potato dug in the dark cures as many as Christian Science, and has as many and as intelligent witnesses to its good effects. The evidence for "cures" would be worth more if not pushed to such extremes by all kinds of crude enthusiasts. There is so much of it for cures which we know to be false that we cannot give much weight to any.

No cures by such means have been established so that they can be believed by men capable of weighing evidence. They have all been found false when subjected to scientific scrutiny. The evidence by which the Christian Science cures are "proven" would have no weight in a court of justice. The witnesses would all be discredited by cross-examination. There is no legal evidence of a single one.

Many "healers" are interested in getting relief for their cures and so in providing evidence for them. The electric doctor, hot-water doctor, massage operator,